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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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EXAMINER

RICHER, AARON M

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

2676

DATE MAILED: 03/15/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/074,384

Applicant(s)

LIONGOSARI ET AL.

Examiner

Aaron M Richer

Art Unit

2676

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 28 December 2004.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 38-71 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) 38-47 and 72-81 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 48-71 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 48,50,51,53,55-57,66,67 and 69 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 12 February 2002 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- ☒ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Election/Restrictions

1. Restriction to one of the following inventions is required under 35 U.S.C. 121:
 - I. Claims 38-47 and 72-81, drawn to selecting a focus element, classified in class 345, subclass 440.
 - II. Claims 48-71, drawn to categorizing elements and representing relationships between elements, classified in class 345, subclass 440.

The inventions are distinct, each from the other because of the following reasons:

2. Inventions I and II are related as subcombinations disclosed as usable together in a single combination. The subcombinations are distinct from each other if they are shown to be separately usable. In the instant case, invention II has separate utility such as representing relationships between elements without selecting a focus element. See MPEP § 806.05(d).
3. Because these inventions are distinct for the reasons given above and the search required for Group I is not required for Group II, restriction for examination purposes as indicated is proper.
4. During a telephone conversation with Sanders Hillis on February 28, 2005 a provisional election was made with traverse to prosecute the invention of Group II, claims 48-71. Affirmation of this election must be made by applicant in replying to this Office action. Claims 38-47 and 72-81 are withdrawn from further consideration by the examiner, 37 CFR 1.142(b), as being drawn to a non-elected invention.

Claim Objections

5. Claims 48, 50, 51, 53, 55, 56, 57, 66, 67, and 69 are objected to because of the following informalities: There are numerous grammar errors involving the words "indicia" and "indicium". The singular form of this word is "indicium"; the plural form is "indicia". Claim 48, line 13, for instance, recites "a relationship between indicium". This should read "a relationship between indicia". The other claims objected to have similar errors. Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

6. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

7. Claims 48-51, 55, 56, 58, 59, 61-66, 68-69, and 71 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Levin (U.S. Patent 6,434,556).

8. As to claims 48 and 66, Levin discloses a method for displaying data element indicia representative of a plurality of data elements that are interrelated by a plurality of relationships, the method comprising:

displaying on the display a plurality of visibly separated regions, wherein each of the regions are representative of a different one of a plurality of corresponding data types that are interrelated within a predefined subject area (fig. 1; col. 6, lines 11-27;

elements are categorized by their site location, which corresponds to a data type, while links join interrelated sites);

categorization of a plurality of data elements to be included in the regions based on a data type associated with each of the data elements (fig. 1; col. 6, lines 11-27; elements are categorized by their site location, which corresponds to a data type);

displaying on the display a plurality of data element indicia positioned in the regions, wherein each indicium of the data element indicia is representative of a data element that is categorized to be displayed in the corresponding region (col. 6, lines 23-36);

and displaying on the display a relationship between indicium of the data element indicia positioned in different regions (fig. 1, element 38; col. 9, lines 18-44).

9. As to claim 49, Levin discloses a method wherein displaying on the display a plurality of regions comprises displaying on the display an indication of the data type of each of the corresponding regions (fig. 1, element 40; col. 6, lines 11-27; regions are labeled with text and icons corresponding to their data type).

10. As to claim 50, Levin discloses a method wherein displaying on the display a relationship between indicia comprises indicating on the display a confirmed relationship between a plurality of related data elements (col. 9, lines 18-44; linked pages on the display are confirmed to have hypertext links between them).

11. As to claim 51, Levin discloses a method wherein displaying on the display a relationship between indicia comprises indicating on the display a relationship between a plurality of potentially related data elements (col. 9, lines 18-44; linked pages on the

display have hypertext links between them and are assumed, but not proven, to have similar subject matter)

12. As to claim 55, Levin discloses a method wherein displaying on the display a relationship between indicium comprises identifying common subject matter between a plurality of data elements (fig. 1, element 38; col. 9, lines 18-44; pages are parsed for hypertext links to determine if the pages contain common subject matter).

13. As to claim 56, Levin discloses a method comprising:

displaying on the display a first indicium of the data element indicia as a focus indicium, wherein the regions are displayed on the display based on the first indicium (col. 6, lines 57-67; the most relevant region is centered as a focus region and other regions are displayed a distance from the center based on relevance);

displaying on the display a plurality of relationships to other indicia relative to the first indicium (fig. 1, element 38; col. 9, lines 18-44).

14. As to claims 58 and 69, Levin discloses a method wherein displaying a first indicium comprises displaying the first indicium in a central region of the display (col. 6, lines 57-67).

15. As to claim 59, Levin discloses a method for displaying data elements that are interrelated by a plurality of relationships, the method comprising:

identifying a subject area and a corresponding plurality of interrelated data types (col. 6, lines 5-16; a search query defines a subject area and returns a number of different site locations, corresponding to data types);

categorizing a plurality of data elements to be included in at least one of the data types (fig. 1; col. 6, lines 11-27; elements are categorized by their site location, which corresponds to a data type);

generating a focus region in a display that includes a representation of one of the data elements (col. 6, lines 57-67; the most relevant data elements can be positioned in a central region);

generating a plurality of associated regions in the display, wherein each of the associated regions are indicated in the display to be representative of one of the data types (fig. 1; col. 6, lines 11-36);

displaying in the display a representation of each of the data elements in at least one of the associated regions that correspond to the data type into which each of the data elements were categorized (fig. 1; col. 6, lines 11-36); and

indicating in the display a relationship between individual data elements in different associated regions (fig. 1, element 38; col. 9, lines 18-44).

16. As to claim 61, Levin discloses a method wherein categorizing a plurality of data elements comprises scanning each of the data elements to determine a specific data type corresponding thereto (col. 6, lines 11-27; scanning an address to discover its root node is inherent in categorizing sites).

17. As to claim 62, Levin discloses a method wherein displaying a representation of each of the data elements comprises determining which of the associated regions each of the data elements are associated with (fig. 1; col. 6, lines 11-27; elements are categorized by their site location, which corresponds to a data type).

18. As to claim 63, Levin discloses a method wherein displaying in the display a representation of each of the data elements comprises representing each of the data elements individually with a visually perceptible representation (fig. 1, elements 20, 22; col. 6, lines 20-36).

19. As to claim 64, Levin discloses a method wherein generating a focus region comprises providing a context by which the associated regions are generated and displayed (col. 6, lines 57-67; the most relevant region is centered as a focus region and other regions are displayed a distance from the center based on relevance).

20. As to claim 65, Levin discloses a method wherein generating a plurality of associated regions in the display comprises defining a pattern of visually perceptible panels wherein each of the panels is an associated region (fig. 8 shows regions grouped into panels).

21. As to claim 68, Levin discloses a method wherein the regions define a visually perceptible grid pattern (fig. 1 shows a 3x3 grid pattern for displaying information)

22. As to claim 71, Levin discloses a method wherein executable instructions form a part of a browser application stored in the memory device (col. 5, lines 47-53).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

23. The text of those sections of Title 35, U.S. Code not included in this action can be found in a prior Office action.

24. Claims 57, 60, and 70 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Levin in view of Lamping (U.S. Patent 5,619,632). Levin discloses defining a focus indicium by relevance to a query (col. 6, lines 57-67) as well as

displaying relationships between indicia (col. 9, lines 18-44). Levin does not disclose receiving a selection indication representative of selection of a second indicium of the data element indicia as the focus indicium, reconfiguring the regions on the display based on the selection of the second indicium, or displaying the relationships to the other indicium relative to the second indicium. Lamping, however, teaches receiving a selection of a second indicium and displaying region indicia based on it (fig. 20; col. 27, lines 10-22; user's manipulations of a view can select a second indicium). Lamping further discloses displaying relationships to the other indicia relative to the second indicium (fig. 20; lines represent relationships). The motivation for including these steps is so that a user may find out about the context of any node of interest (col. 3, lines 8-35). It would have been obvious to one skilled in the art to modify Levin to choose a second focus node in order to show information about any node in context as taught by Lamping.

25. Claims 52-54 and 67 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Levin in view of Schurenberg (U.S. Publication 2002/0007824).

26. As to claims 52, 54, and 67, Levin discloses displaying potentially related elements (col. 9, lines 18-44). Levin does not disclose receiving an indication confirming a potential relationship between potentially related data elements nor does Levin disclose converting the relationship to a relationship representative of a confirmed relationship. Schurenberg, however, discloses receiving an indication confirming a potential relationship, and converting the relationship to a confirmed relationship (fig. 3; p. 5, paragraph 0085). The motivation for this is to link a patient's previous records to

the most complete, updated record possible (p. 5, paragraph 0085). It would have been obvious to one skilled in the art to modify Levin to confirm and convert potential relationships in order to complete a medical patient's record as taught by Schurenberg.

27. As to claim 53, Levin discloses displaying potentially related elements (col. 9, lines 18-44). Levin does not disclose a method wherein displaying on the display a relationship between indicia comprises, displaying on the display verified relationships between indicia with a first relationship indicia and displaying on the display unverified relationships between indicia with a second relationship indicia that is visually different from the first relationship indicia. Schurenberg, however, discloses displaying a verified relationship between indicia with one indicium and an unverified relationship between indicia with a second, visually distinct indicium (fig. 3, see legend). The motivation for this is to link a patient's previous records to the most complete, updated record possible (p. 5, paragraph 0085). It would have been obvious to one skilled in the art to modify Levin to display relationships between confirmed and unconfirmed indicia differently in order to help a user complete a medical patient's record as taught by Schurenberg.


Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Aaron M Richer whose telephone number is (571) 272-7790. The examiner can normally be reached on weekdays from 8:30AM-5:00PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Matthew Bella can be reached on (571) 272-7778. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

AMR
3/8/05



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